CLAIMS

1. Isolated polypeptide,

which is identical or similar to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, and

which has the amino acid sequence indicated in either the SEQ ID NO:2 sequence protocol or the SEQ ID NO:3 sequence protocol, or representing an allele or derivative obtained through amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion or inversion from one of these two amino acid sequences.

2. Isolated nucleic acid

that encodes a protein,

which is identical or similar to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state,

which has the nucleotide sequence indicated in either the SEQ ID NO:1 sequence protocol or the SEQ ID NO:4 sequence protocol,

or a nucleotide sequence complementary to one of these two,

or a partial sequence of one of these two indicated or complementary nucleotide sequences,

or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes wholly or in part with one of these aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

3. Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2, characterized by the fact that this nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or half-synthetic source.

4. Isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 or 3, characterized by the fact that this nucleic acid is a cDNA..

5. Isolated nucleic acid according to one of claims 2 or 3, characterized by the fact that this nucleic acid is a sense or antisense oligonucleotide, which encompasses at least 6, preferably 8 to 25 nucleotides, and hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or sequence protocol SEQ ID N:4 or partial sequences thereof.

6. Isolated nucleic acid according to one of claims 2 or 3, characterized by the fact that this nucleic acid is a splice variant, which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:4.

7. Isolated polypeptide, characterized by the fact that

it has an amino acid sequence resulting from a splice variant of an mRNA, which

has either the nucleotide sequence indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:1 or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO:4,

or the nucleotide sequence complementary to one of these two,

or a partial sequence of one of these two indicated or complementary nucleotide sequences,

or a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes wholly or in part with one of these aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

8. Recombinant DNS vector molecule, which encompasses a nucleic acid according to one of claims 2 to 6, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

9. Recombinant DNS vector molecule according to claim 8, characterized by the fact that the vector molecule is the plasmid pUEX-1 or pGEX-2T or pBK-CMV or pHR2.

10. Transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to one of claims 2 to 6, which is coupled with an activatable promotor contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, in particular protein pKe#122.

11. Transformed host cell according to claim 10, characterized by the fact that the promotor is the cytokeratin-14 promotor and the host cell is a keratinocyte, or that the promotor is the CMV promotor and the host cell is a Cos cell.

12. Use of a nucleic acid according to claim 2 or a vector molecule according to claim 8 for manufacturing transgenic mammals, in particular mice or rats.

13. Use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 7 for manufacturing an antibody against this polypeptide and/or proteins related thereto.

14. Use according to claim 13, characterized by the fact that the antibody is used for the diagnostic and/or therapeutic treatment in particular of dermatological diseases, or for the cosmetic treatment in particular of the epidermis.

15. Antibody that reacts specifically with a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 7.

16. Use of an antibody according to claim 15 for the diagnostic and/or therapeutic treatment of dermatological diseases, or for the cosmetic treatment of the epidermis.

17. Reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes, in particular protein pKe#122, characterized by the fact that the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid according to one of claims 2 to 6 or a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 7.

18. Use of a sense or antisense oligonucleotide according to claim 5 for the diagnostic and/or therapeutic treatment in particular of dermatological diseases, or for the cosmetic treatment in particular of the epidermis.

19. Use of a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 7 or a nucleic acid according to claim 2 for identifying substances with medical, cosmetic or pharmacological applications, which bind to the polypeptide or nucleic acid, and thereby influence its function and/or expression, in particular acting as inhibitors or activators.